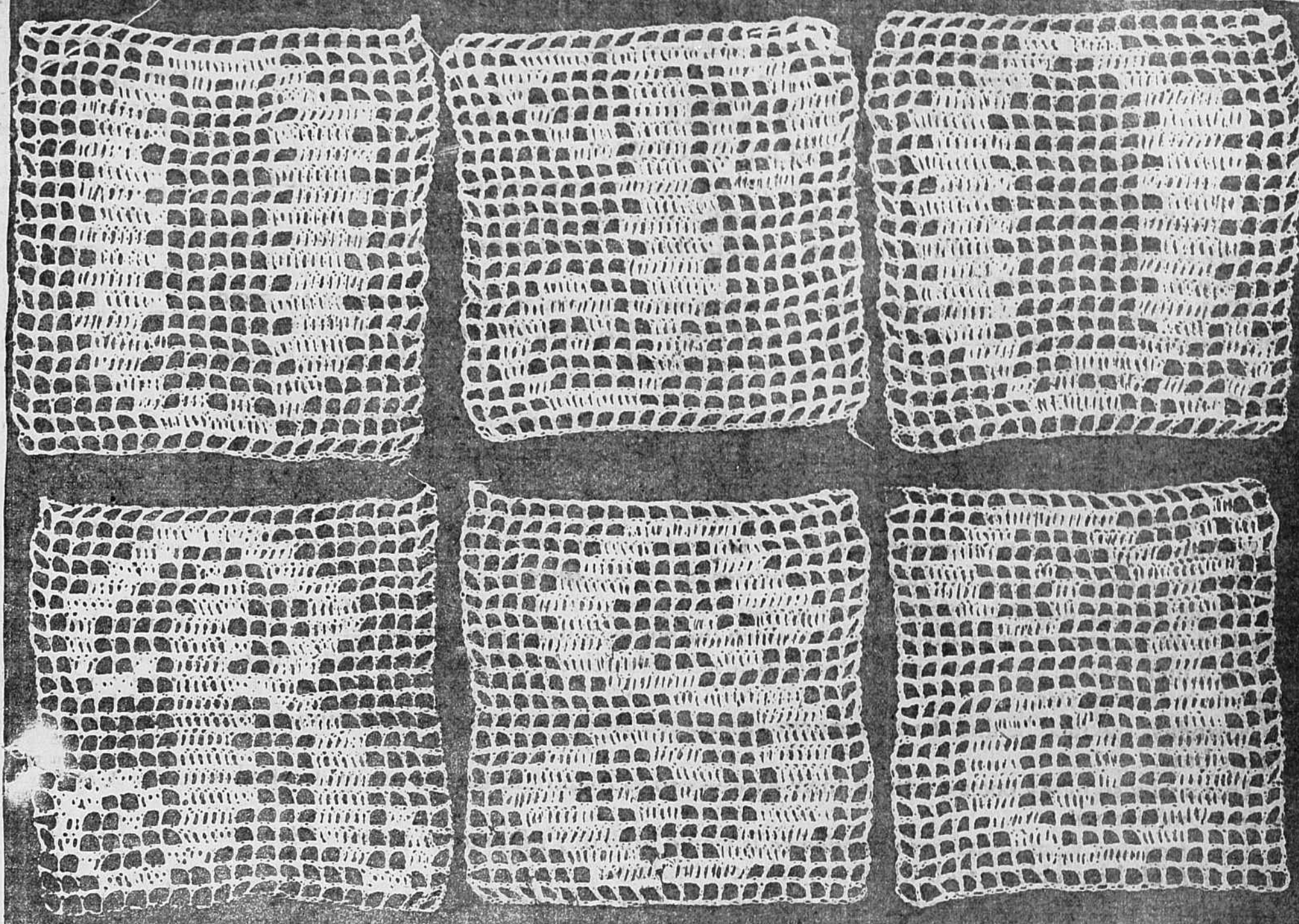


## The Third Group of Initials in Filet Stitch.

These initials in filet are easily made and suggest many uses. The gift of a dresser scarf with initials inserted neatly and a pretty crocheted edge added certainly has a touch of individuality when coming directly from giver to receiver.

The size of the letters depends upon the number of the thread used. No. 30 is always a good number, neither too coarse nor too fine for ordinary uses. The smallest possible square for the letters is 19x19 meshes, and it is best to begin and finish with a row of plain meshes. All the letters shown are 19x21. If desired larger, crochet around the finished letter, adding any finish desired. A few rows of open meshes show the letter distinctly. By following the outline of the letter with a little practice a good initial is sure to result. Care is necessary to keep the letter well balanced, with an equal number of meshes on each side.



## The Home Harmonious

## The Wardrobe Displaces the Hat Rack

By Anita de Campi

## Some Wonders of the Ant World

SOMETIMES the little problems about some furnishing are as difficult to solve as the large ones, and like most petty annoyances they are more vexatious. "How shall we furnish the front hall?" is as frequently asked, as "how shall we furnish the living room?" and the question is often harder to answer because of the limitations of space, light, etc.

Once in a while a thoroughly convenient article of furniture passes into disuse. Every one rails against it. It is jeered at and derided and utterly condemned with the exclamation: "Why, I didn't know any one ever used that nowadays." Presto! Vanishes the offending object, only perhaps to reappear with gusto fifty years hence.

The hall piece that is now banished by fashion is the hat rack—the poor old thing! Think of being banished after years of faithful service! And by some sort of reactionary principle the piece that is reclaimed from iniquitous desuetude is the wardrobe.

Not only movable hat racks but the built-in type of thing, the looking glass with hooks at each side and arms extended in embracing curves to support willy wet umbrellas—old familiar, that seemed downright essential to all well regulated halls a year or so ago—are irrevocably doomed. The sad fact must be faced: "They have gone out of style!"

In conformity with the general trend toward better taste in home furnishing, nothing is allowable that has an untidy air, and certainly nothing was ever more untidy in appearance than the hat rack burdened with a miscellaneous lot of hats and wraps hanging in dejected folds, and not only exposed to view but, what was ever more lamentable, exposed to dust. Unlustrous and unhygienic was the verdict at the post-mortem.

All good architects see that built-in closet room is a part of their hall planning, and where this is done the furnishing of the hall simplifies itself. Just the fewest pieces are then required. The selection must, of course, be judicious, as the hall is the key to the furnishings of the rest of the home.

If furnishings are elaborate throughout the hall pieces are, of course, correspondingly so. Simple taste often calls for the most expensive materials. A hall may boast nothing more than a good piece of tapestry, a fine gothic chest, and a pair of torches, a paneled wall and mosaic floor, with a fine felt thrown down on it—all this is simple enough—only one piece of furniture really—yet its cost would completely furnish the average home.

We can always strike a happy medium. Instead of a genuine tapestry we can use an attractive little mirror, one that will conform to the style in which our furnishing is done. Below this may be a table, with chair at either side, or, if space forbids, a chair on one side only. It is a great convenience to have a small clock, preferably an inexpensive little eight day clock, on the hall table. Here must also rest the maid's little silver card receiver, and it is quite necessary that the table should have a drawer and that pen and ink, pencil and pad should be kept in this drawer, so that signing of receipts at the door for parcels and notes, etc., can be attended to without the confusion of having to run around and look for writing materials while a messenger waits.

Halls seldom are light enough. It is therefore well to have the wall done in a color that will reflect the most possible light. Buff is best—cream, pearl color, and other light colors next. Often it happens in rented homes that one has to make the best of some ugly stationary contrivance, and this with a little ingenuity can usually be done.

A built-in hatrack in one of the small "reception halls" common to all apartments that are not up to the minute can be successfully altered without bringing down on one's head the wrath of the agent and the agent's landlord and the landlord's lawyer. No real damage need be done.

First of all unscrew all of the wood or metal pegs on the hatrack, and put the pegs carefully away so that you can put them back again before you move. The

same for the umbrella brackets. Fill up the little screw holes with putty or plaster of paris and touch up with paint to match the wood. The mirror thus left alone is probably well to be objectionable. Put a narrow wall table or low chest of drawers directly in front of it. If you have not a narrow table adjust a simple shelf just below the mirror. Now it can be flanked with a pair of neat little wardrobes (they come in pairs or singly).

One such wardrobe is shown in the accompanying sketch. In height it is rather lower than the old fashioned wardrobe. When a pair is used one is for coats and the other for hats. Chintz covered hat pegs are at either side and at the back, and hats may be pinned to these if so desired. The other one, used for wraps,

is fitted with a hook that projects a foot or more forward and has a series of shoulder hangers suspended on it. At attractive effect can be attained at but little cost by following the plan advised above, and using plain chintz covered pine boxes stood upright on either side of the hall mirror. The boxes can be made by any carpenter and covered with chintz at home. They can either have chintz covered doors on hinges or be fitted with chintz curtains, or plain pine boxes can be painted to match the other woodwork of the hall, or painted in any decorative manner.

Hanging mirrors are to be had now in all sorts of shapes and sizes, and in conjunction with them a fascinating novelty of the season shown in the sketch is the

pair of cords and tassels, designed for hanging mirrors in halls. The cord is different sized and made in various colors and brass molding hooks. The tassels may be adjusted to any height and an attractive rosette finishes the top of the cord. Similar cords are used for picture hanging in living rooms.

Among the newest architectural designs for halls is one that shows what appears to be a plain paneled wall, but the panels prove to be sliding doors covering a series of shallow cloak and hat closets.

Another novel feature is a little window in the fitted with tiny leaded panes, of opaque glass, and being a blind window has an electric light adjusted into the in-

closure that the window covers. It is small and placed on the stair landing serves as a unique hall lamp.

While good taste forbids recommending naturalistic looking artificial flowers for use as decoration, a new kind of artificial flower is now being made entirely of enameled metal. An abundance of conventional blossoms and leaves, all in the brightest colors, comprise the queer looking pairs of flowering plants. They make a wonderful splash of color in the hall, where they are formally placed at either end of a small table. To say that they smile, is mild—they almost grin a greeting, and making no pretense whatever at being natural, they rightfully claim their place as things artistic.

### Answers to Inquiries.

J. W.: If you had sized over the old calcimine before applying paint to it you would not have met with such an adventure. The size should be of an ordinary glue of paint consistency. What you must now do is to use a good varnish remover and with a blade of some kind scrape the paint and spilt calcimine from the wall, then size and then paint.

A. L. J.: If you want your dining room done in soft brown and your drawing room is gray, see that the gray is tinged with a little of the body color brown used in the dining room. This will give you a taupe tint for your drawing room, upon which the brown frames would go perfectly well.

A. J. K.: The most economical and best wearing paint for any interior walls is white lead and oil. White lead can be flatted for interior painting with turpentine. This can be readily washed, but if a high gloss paint is desired we would suggest that white lead and linseed oil be used as follows: One hundred pounds of white lead, four and one-half gallons of raw oil, one pint of turpentine, and one pint of turpentine drier. All calcimined walls should be washed, if possible, and sized with glue, paying particular attention to any loose parts which cannot be loosened up when repainting. For this particular wall, which has been sized with gloss oil and calcimine, the formula recommended above will give the full gloss finish.

A. W.: I do not believe that it would cheapen your room to use a good quality of new sunfast fabrics in various weaves. Have your window seats and draperies alike, and I think it would be the most attractive thing you could find for curtains. On account of your stencil border I do not believe I would use figured draperies. I am so glad you tried the instructions I sent you in painting furniture and that it worked out well. Make regular fitted cushions for your seats and let them have square edges.

H. R. C.: I thank you for your interest in this department and shall write an article on the subject about which you wish to know at the earliest moment possible.

E. H. S.—Old ivory would be a better choice than gray for the enameling of your woodwork to go with buff walls.

THOUGH they do not as yet carry arms, ants, apparently, have a most elaborate group system. The dividing line between the "worker" and the "shirker" is a very sharp one indeed. In military matters they are quite up to date. Communication trenches are not unknown to them, and they have a passion for raiding weaker communities and capturing their spoils.

According to an eminent naturalist, they live and work in a collective rather than an individual sense, and their habits and pursuits are so remarkably human that they form most interesting parallels to our own modes of living.

The main work is done by the smaller ants, the large ones acting as overseers, and a species called harvesting ants are mainly employed in the bringing home of foodstuffs—wheat, maize, grain, etc.—while another section acts as hunters.

The young ants, whose skins are too tender for rough work, take care of the babies. They protect, feed, and even teach them—for the ant kingdom can boast of schools that vie with our own. The babies are also taught to value fresh air and sunshine and are grouped together at school according to age.

On the same system of unity the ants' dwellings are connected up with a large central hall by a labyrinth of passages, tunnels, and corridors. This central chamber is used as a kind of assembly hall, while the cities themselves are linked up one with the other by carefully prepared roads.

Gymnastics are said to be one of the chief forms of amusement of the ant.

## Showing Off Bad for Baby

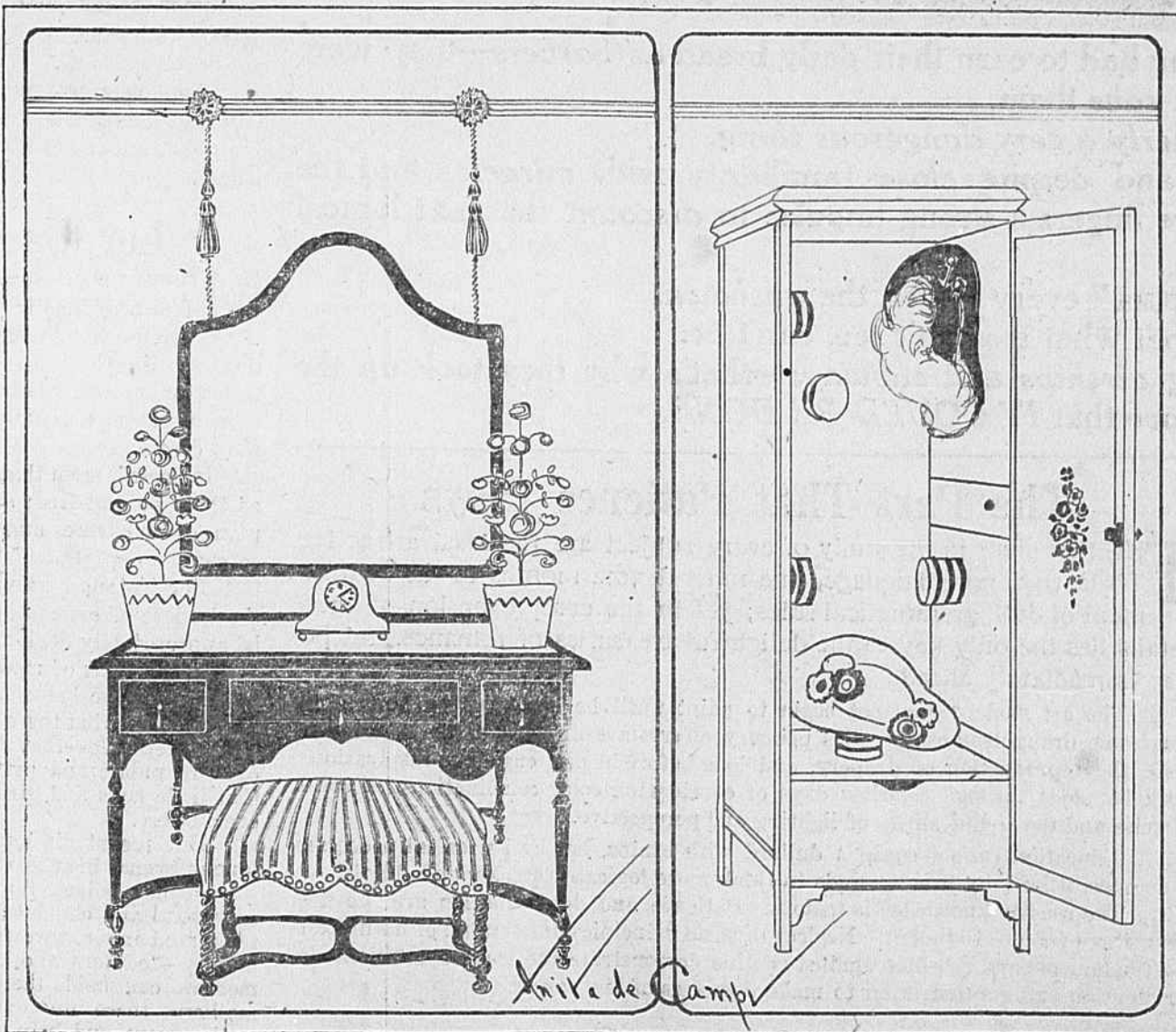
THIS indictment of "showing off the baby" does not refer to the time when the new arrival, clad in yards of muslin and lace, lies in the new mother's arms. Then its very "newness" disarms all criticism, and, as all babies are much alike, nobody expects much from it.

The real showing off comes along later, when the child begins to acquire those little individualities that are so dear to the heart of the fond, proud, young parents. "He is so wonderfully intelligent and takes notice of everything and every body," is the burden of their song.

Poor baby is excited, and talked to, and made to show off, and all sorts of things are dangled in front of him to show "how he notices" at an earlier age than other babies.

So it goes on from week to week; every day of his life, the little brain is being forced beyond its natural capacity; he is encouraged to sit up, to crawl, and then to walk and talk in advance of nature's planning, but sooner or later he will almost certainly have to suffer for it.

Now, no parents want their baby to be backward or stolid, but it is one thing to encourage natural bodily and mental growth and quite another to force it. It is far better to be satisfied with a healthy normal baby than to pride yourself on one which will most likely grow up battered and overworked, or, worse, a round shouldered, don't you think?



Narrow Table with Bench Beneath, Mirror Above, Sole Furnishing of a Small Hall

Low Hall Wardrobe, One of a Pair